NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

April 19, 1996

TO RETIRE BUT *NOT* TO LEAVE

Yes. It's true! Come summer, **Carolyn Blackmon** will be retiring. I almost wrote "leaving the Museum" - but somehow I think (and hope) Carolyn will continue to be part of our family.

For all of us, Carolyn has been an important part of our Field Museum experience. Over the last twenty-four years, she has led the Museum to a position at the forefront of Museum Education nationwide and around the world. Visitor programs, outreach, school programs, overnights! -- our programs, under Carolyn's leadership, are recognized as innovative and pacesetting.

As many of you know, we are currently conducting a review of the Education Department to identify opportunities that will keep us at the forefront of Museum Education and ensure our effectiveness and impact. Carolyn is playing and will continue to play an important role in the review.

Within the next few weeks, we will begin the search for Carolyn's successor. If you would like to suggest candidates, please write a note to me.

Laura Gates, Vice President, Museum Affairs

MUSEUM ETHICS CODE ADOPTED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On April 15, 1996, the Field Museum Board of Trustees adopted the ethics code which was drafted and discussed during last summer and fall. The ethics code is comprised of the Field Museum mission statement and a conflicts of interest policy. The conflicts of interest policy portion of the ethics code is included in today's *Natural News*.

The new conflicts policy requires a discloure of conflicts by every staff member and volunteer. Before making the disclosure, there will be training sessions for staff and volunteers to go over the conflicts of interest policy and what kinds of things should be disclosed. Training sessions will take about one hour and will be in Lecture Hall I at the following dates and times:

Wednesday, May 15, 1996	2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21, 1996	3:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 23, 1996	10:00 a.m.

Spiders! As you may know, this exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution is our summer feature, opening May 24 and closing August 25. This is a ticketed exhibit: $3/adult, $2.50/child, $1/member. A bargain rate will give a discount for those who wish to see both **Spiders!** and **Life Over Time**. As usual, staff and volunteers enter free with I.D., and can purchase tickets for their families at the member rate. Tickets will not be timed, and can be used at any time on the day of issues. There will be no advance ticket sales, except for scheduled groups. Again, everyone who purchases a ticket will receive a colorful button.

A spider-web of five banners across the north and south entrances will be topped by a black widow spider on the roof! Coordinated street banners on Lake Shore Drive also work with the campus street banners, and will also be hung at Midway and O'Hare.

Exhibit production and plans for related activities are moving along quickly. Before May you'll see large spider webs installed outside the exhibit entrance. Since the exhibit was originally funded by Marvel Comics, Spider-Man (yes, ***the*** official Spider-Man!) will participate in the opening ceremony and talk with visitors in the exhibit between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Friday through Monday of that weekend. The Education Department will host spider activities in the exhibit throughout the summer, with a special emphasis on the opening weekend and special spider weekends in July and August.

Preview events will be somewhat different than in past years. Instead of a formal press luncheon, selected media will join a grade-school class from Chicago in previewing the exhibit with Spider-Man. Our former Taxi Day has been expanded to include CTA bus drivers, and shifted to the evening so their families can participate. Due to a tight installation schedule, there are less preview activities than usual, and the staff preview has been shifted to an afternoon.

The exhibit opens at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 24, but exhibit-related activities begin well beforehand and continue throughout the summer. Here are some of the highlights:

Wednesday 5/22	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Vendor Preview
	evening	Donor Preview
Thursday 5/23	2:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Staff Preview
	5:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Taxi/Bus Driver Family Preview
Friday 5/24	10:00 a.m.	Public Opening
Tuesday 5/28	evening	Women's Board/Founders' Council family evening
Sunday 6/2		Nature Network
Tuesday 6/19	evening	Members Night
Wednesday 6/20	evening	Members Night
Sunday 8/25	5:00 p.m.	Exhibit closes

Questions about the exhibit or related activities may be directed to **Carrie Hageman** (x488).

PRESIDENT'S STAFF TALK
on

PARKING

Tuesday, April 23, 1996
9:00 a.m. in Montgomery Ward Hall

Facilities Planning and Operations, The Field Museum

ROOF ACCESS POLICY[1]

Approved: November, 1995

GENERAL ACCESS

As a general rule, no person shall be permitted on the roof of the building with the exception of:

- ***Building maintenance staff*** in the course of assigned maintenance tasks;
- ***Outside contractors*** in the course of survey of maintenance work that they are performing at the request of building facilities personnel; and
- ***Security personnel*** in the course of an emergency situation.

SPECIAL ACCESS

It is recognized that from time to time other people may desire or require access to the roof, e.g., police, film crews. In these cases, an exception to the general rule shall be requested from the Facilities Manager, or if he or she is unavailable, the Vice President for Finance and Administration.

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL ACCESS

In making a request for an exception, the department requesting the exception shall describe in detail the full scope of activity that is proposed.

REVIEW PROCEDURE

If there is any aspect of the activity that creates a potential safety risk and/or exposes the Museum to liability, the Vice President of Finance and Administration shall confer with the Museum's lawyer and Director of Public Services prior to granting the exception.

No exception shall be granted without the development and presentation of a full plan to manage the potential safety hazard. The adequacy of this plan shall be decided upon jointly by the Vice President of Finance and Administration, the Director of Public Services and the Museum lawyer.

PROOF OF INSURANCE

Before an exception is granted, any outside group or person, e.g. film crews or photographers, must provide proof of insurance.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Potential damage to the roof must be assessed. Any outside group, e.g. film crews, must accept responsibility to repair any damage that they may cause in the course of their activities.

1. Written by J. W. Croft and Laura Gates. Approved by Vice President's Docket.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Introduction.

To maintain public confidence in the Field Museum and in the museum profession, Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers shall maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, and professionalism. One must scrutinize situations in which any private or personal activity creates an actual or potential conflict with the interests of the Museum.

Regardless of whether a particular action has been specifically described in the Conflicts of Interest provisions below, one should avoid any action which might result in **or create the appearance of**:

1. Competing with the Museum;

2. Using affiliation with Field Museum for private gain; or

3. Giving preferential treatment to a family member or significant other.

Under these Conflicts of Interest provisions, one cannot do indirectly, through family, friends or associates, anything one may not do directly.

Confidentiality.

Non-public information about specific activities of the Museum must not be used for personal gain.

Soliciting or Accepting Gifts for Personal Gain.

Soliciting gifts is prohibited. **Accepting** significant gifts, particularly when a person is in a position within the Museum to confer a benefit on the gift giver, will be perceived as an impediment to the exercise of independent judgment.

"Gifts" made to an individual for purposes of this provision include objects, financial interests, money, entertainment, favors, discounts, travel, lodging, meals, or other arrangements which are advantageous to the employee.

Note:

Circumstances which make it clear that the gift is motivated by a family relationship or personal friendship will not be considered to give rise to a Conflict of Interest. Gifts of a modest value ($35 per gift; $100 total from the same source per year) will not give rise to a Conflict of Interest.

Use of Museum Name, Property or Facilities.

Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers may make factual statements to outsiders regarding their relationship to the Field Museum. However, in circumstances when one is not specifically authorized to represent the Museum, one must proceed with caution to avoid the implication that one speaks or acts on behalf of the Museum. For the same reasons, Field Museum letterhead must be used only for Museum business.

Postage, faxes, photocopiers, telephones, and other Museum property may not be used for personal business without reimbursement; in connection with professional or other outside activities, such property may not be used without the express permission of the Museum. Use of Museum facilities for personal purposes must be arranged through the Special Events Department.

Personal Collecting.

The Museum recognizes that its Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers may engage in personal collecting; however, when personal collecting is in subject matter areas of the Museum, there must be a disclosure of the individual's personal collection. In order to preserve public trust, there must not be or **appear** to be:

1. Competition with the Museum for collections; or

2. Use of information acquired at the Museum for purposes of personal collecting.

Furthermore, Curators shall make an itemized disclosure of personal collecting in their own professional subject matter area. All such personal collections will be itemized at the outset of a Curator's employment with the Museum and updated at the time of each subsequent personal acquisition.

Purchases and Sales of Museum Property; Dealing.

Any purchase of Museum property by Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers shall be conducted as provided in the Accession/Deaccession Policy.

Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers may sell material to the Museum, but the transaction must be disclosed.

Staff cannot receive additional compensation for acting as a dealer, locating buyers or sellers for the Museum. Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers who deal commercially in material within the subject matter areas of the Museum, such as galleries with ethnographic material, should disclose the nature of their business.

Staff may not act on behalf of outside dealers or collectors as an agent, i.e., finding,

The Field Museum
Conflict of Interest Disclosure

This statement is made pursuant to the Field Museum's Conflicts of Interest statement which provides that actual or potential Conflicts of Interest must be disclosed. The following is a list of all Conflicts of Interest of which I am aware, including those which arise as a result of a family relationship:

I certify that the above is true and accurate to the extent of my personal knowledge.

_____ _____

Name Date

purchasing, or selling material within the Museum's subject matter.

Appraisals.

Staff shall not make appraisals of objects, either written or oral, being donated to the Museum. Staff may appraise for internal Museum uses, such as insurance valuation for loans.

Doing Business with the Museum.

Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers shall disclose all business transactions with the Museum.

Ethics Code Procedures.

Ethics Officer.

There will be an Ethics Officer in the Museum, who is available to answer questions regarding the interpretation and application of the provisions of the Ethics Code. Requests for such opinions should be in writing. The Ethics Officer will review all disclosures and will communicate with Trustees, Staff, and Volunteers regarding any issues arising from such disclosures.

Conflict Disclosure.

Trustees, Officers, and Department Executives shall disclose Conflicts of Interest annually.

Other Staff and Volunteers shall disclose Conflicts of Interest on the attached form at the beginning of their association with the Museum. The disclosure must be updated whenever any significant change occurs.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

BIELER TOURS EAST COAST

Rüdiger Bieler (Zoology) spends this week traveling the east coast. Following his recent re-election to the Board of Trustees of the Delaware Museum of Natural History, he is attending the spring board meeting to chair the Collections & Research Committee at our small sister institution in Wilmington, Delaware. From there, he's moving south to serve on the Systematics Research Panel of the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Virginia.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERN RECEIVES RESEARCH AWARD

Aleksa Kosinski, Biology major at the University of Illinois at Chicago and intern with **Greg Mueller** (Botany) in the Museum's NSF internship program for minority and women undergraduates, was awarded the Elmer Hadley Award at this year's UIC Department of Biological Sciences Awards Day held on 15 April. The Elmer Hadley Award is given to a student with high academic achievement who has carried out an outstanding research project in the area of ecology, evolution, or conservation. The award is based on her research efforts in the Museum's biochemistry laboratory to generate DNA sequence data from U.S., Costa Rican, and Chinese collections of *Amanita flavoconia*, a species of mushrooms with a wide but discontinuous distribution pattern. This work is part of **Qiuxin Wu's** (Botany) and Greg's project that is investigating genetic divergence among North America / Chinese disjunct mushroom populations.

UNDERGRAD INTERN ON TO GRAD SCHOOL

Olga Helmy, an undergraduate intern working with **Margaret Thayer** (Zoology) in 1995-96, recently gained admission to the University of Kansas for graduate study. She is looking forward excitedly to studying systematics and behavior of staphylinid beetles with **Steve Ashe** (formerly Associate Curator in the Division of Insects). Olga was a Field Museum intern in 1995, working with Margaret on local staphylinids doing background work for a Chicago Wilderness project, and joined the NSF internship program for minority and women undergraduates in the fall of 1995. She is currently finishing her last semester as a Zoology major at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and will return to the museum in May for the summer. Congratulations, Olga!

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday April 16, 1996 was delivered by **Gary Merrill,** Research Associate, Bryology, Department of Botany, Field Museum. Gary discussed new insights into relationships within the hair cap mosses, Polytrichaceae, as well as the general relationship of mosses to vascular plants. He reviewed the basic life history and morphology of mosses. He then underscored the close relationship between mosses and vascular plants by documenting shared structural attributes of the conductive tissues. Relationships within groups of mosses are largely based on differences among reproductive structures associated with spore dispersal. Gary reported on recent work with **Pat Herendeen,** Adjunct Assistant Curator, Department of Geology; **Anastasia Konopka**, University of Illinois at Chicago, interpreting a new fossil find from the late Cretaceous of Georgia. The fossils represent an extinct genus of Polytrichaceae sharing many specialized attributes with a highly derived extant genus *Polytrichium.*

EXCESS DISABLED PARKING

In the event that all disabled spaces in the west lot are taken, disabled staff with appropriate vehicle identification may park in reserved (roped-off) spots in the west lot, if available. Please request the assistance of a Security guard before parking in reserved spots.

Congratulations!

To Diane White (Public Services) and her husband Michael on the April 11, 1996 birth of Michael Ethan White Jr. who weighed in at 7 lbs. 15 oz and measured 21 in. long. Both mother and baby are doing fine.

ROOF ACCESS POLICY

Spring is sprung ... and people tend to gravitate to the Museum's roof to enjoy the good weather. OOPS! The Roof Access Policy has been instituted and this pleasure is now reserved to a fortunate few. Please find the policy enclosed in this issue of the *Natural News.*

RESTRICTIONS ON RESERVED PARKING

As many of you are aware, the Lake Shore Drive construction has reduced the number of parking spaces in the north lot by more than thirty, and in the west lot by three. In order to insure as many of our staff and volunteers are able to park in the two lots, we must restrict requests for reserved parking. Current policy requires that requests for more than two spaces will be honored in the north lot and for two or less in the west lot. However, effective immediately, requests for **any** reserved parking must be approved by a vice president, and the number of spaces will be limited between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., depending on the reason and the requestor. We will no longer be able to reserve large numbers of spaces, e.g. ten or more, except on weekends. Any department anticipating a need for numerous spaces should contact **Ron Cundiff** (x856) in the Security Services Department to determine if other arrangements can be made.

Thanks!

All the Anthropology Interns in the bleak housing situation have finished their internships and returned home. For those of you who were kind enough to loan 'creature comforts' such as TVs and radios, please call **Mavis** or **Lanet** (x611). For those of you who wish to donate any of those items to an ongoing Internship system, they will remain stored safely in the Anthro Department until the next group of interns is in residence.

A FOND FAREWELL

To **Margaret Curran** of the President's Office, who retired after ten years of service to the Museum. Margaret came to the Museum on September 2, 1986, working in the Development Office before moving to the President's Office in September of 1990. Margaret has been a cheerful and caring presence for many a frantic person looking for the President . She is looking forward to traveling and other creative pursuits in her retirement -- we wish her the very best and hope that she will come back to visit often.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions, whether via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org or in WordPerfect on floppy disk, is Tuesday at noon.

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